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URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the YEAR 1945.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1984. Population - Census, 1931 - 6660.

Registrar-General's estimate of
Resident population, mid-1945 5563.

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census, 1931 - 1458.
(b) End of 1945 according to rate books -
1556.

Rateable value £20,460. Sum represented by a penny rate - £77.

Social Conditions. Abram is a colliery district and the houses are of the working class type. There are agricultural and dairy farms in the district. The greater part of the working population is employed in the coal mines. The remainder of the employable population find work in neighbouring townships where cotton mills, silk works and other industries are situated.

Many houses are damaged through subsidence and drainage is difficult by the same influence.

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS

| Live Births: | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | 95 | 55 | 40 |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 101 | 56 | 45 |

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1945 - 18.1.

| Stillbirths: | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------|-------|------|--------|
| | 4 | 2 | 2 |

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 38.

DEATHS

| Total | Male | Female |
|-------|------|--------|
| 75 | 33 | 42 |

Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 13.4

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal and post-abortive sepris - Nil.
Other maternal causes - Nil.

Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... | 79 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 | ... | 73 |
| legitimate live births | | |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 | ... | 166 |
| illegitimate live births | | |

/over

| | |
|--|-----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 8 |
| " " Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | 1 |

| <u>Over 1,000 of estimated population.</u> | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------------|------|
| | Live birth rate | Crude death rate | Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | Death rate from Cancer | |
| Mean of 5 years, 1940 - 1944 | 18.8 | 12.9 | 0.35 | | 1.33 |
| Year 1944 | 21.9 | 12.5 | 0.54 | | 1.81 |
| " 1945 | 18.1 | 13.4 | 0.17 | | 1.43 |

Increase or decrease in 1945 on:-

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| 5 years' average, 1940 - 1944 | - 0.7 + 0.5 | - 0.18 | + 0.10 |
| Previous year | - 3.8 + 0.9 | - 0.37 | + 0.38 |

| <u>Maternal Mortality rate.</u> | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Per 1,000 live births | Per 1,000 total (live and still) births. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Mean of 5 years, 1940 - 1944 | Nil | Nil |
| Year 1944 | Nil | Nil |
| " 1945 | Nil | Nil |

Increase or decrease in 1945 on:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 5 years' average, 1940 - 1944 | Nil | Nil |
| Previous year | Nil | Nil |

| <u>Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.</u> | | |
|---|--|--|
|---|--|--|

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Mean of 5 years, 1940 - 1944 | 52 |
| Year 1944 | 33 |
| " 1945 | 79 |

Increase or decrease in 1945 on:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 5 years' average, 1940 - 1944 | + 27 |
| Previous year | + 46 |

| <u>CAUSES OF DEATHS:</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | - | 1 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | 1 | - |
| Acute Infective Encephalitis | - | 1 |
| Cancer of oesophagus | 1 | - |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | 2 |
| Cancer of all other sites | - | 3 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 1 |
| Intracranial vascular lesions | 4 | 7 |
| Heart Disease | 9 | 8 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 3 | 8 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years | - | 1 |
| Other Digestive diseases | - | 1 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 1 |
| Premature birth | 1 | - |
| Congenital injuries and diseases | - | 3 |
| Violent causes | 1 | - |
| All other causes | 5 | 2 |
| | 33 | 42 |

| <u>AGE INCIDENCE.</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 0 - 1 year | 3 | 5 |
| 1 - 2 years | - | 1 |
| 2 - 5 " | - | - |
| 5 - 10 " | - | - |
| 10 - 20 " | 1 | - |
| 20 - 40 " | 2 | 3 |
| 40 - 50 " | 4 | 1 |
| 50 - 65 " | 9 | 4 |
| 65 years and over | 14 | 28 |
| | — | — |
| | 33 | 42 |
| | — | — |

Sickness and Invalidity: On the whole there has been no noteworthy amount of sickness to cause any anxiety. During the summer months there was a mild type of vomiting and diarrhoea.

A hundred and sixteen cases of measles were notified. There were few respiratory complications with the outbreak.

The colliers suffered their normal amount of accidents, and sickness due to their working conditions was about the usual.

Public Health Officers of the Authority: Mr. H. Allen who is whole-time employed by the Abram Authority holds the dual post of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. He has the certificate of the Sanitary Institute.

The Medical Officer of Health is part-time employed.

Laboratory Facilities: Pathological specimens are sent to Wigan Infirmary or Manchester Public Health laboratories for examination.

Ambulance Facilities: Hindley, Ince and Abram have a joint ambulance service. This arrangement works very efficiently and I have not had any complaint regarding delay in conveying patients to hospital or elsewhere.

Infectious diseases are transported by the Astley Sanatorium ambulance, Abram being a member of that Joint Hospital Board.

The collieries in this district have their own ambulance arrangements for their injured and sick.

Nursing in the Home: There is an Abram Nursing Association which employs a full time District Nurse. The County Health Visitor assists in directing treatment and nursing for the children under school age when such cases come within her jurisdiction.

Child Welfare: The Lancashire County Council have a Child Welfare Centre situated behind the Abram Council Offices. The centre is open each Wednesday. As a building it is not satisfactory for this type of work especially for the examination of ante natal cases.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases: Abram is a member of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board which has an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Astley. This hospital has eighteen beds for Smallpox cases and one hundred and twelve beds for other types of infectious diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally. - There was an epidemic of Measles which started in January and continued into May when there was a sudden drop in the number of cases notified. During 1945, 116 cases were notified.

The cases were of a mild type with few respiratory complications.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during 1945.

The seven scarlet fever cases notified were of a mild type of infection.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of:

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin - Only been used as a prophylactic while awaiting swab reports.

Are supplies readily available? Yes.

If so, where kept? - House of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum - None in district.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners? Considered when requested.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations: No. of specimens examined in 1945:- Diphtheria - 3.

Diphtheria Immunisation: Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation: At special clinics or day schools - Every Wednesday diphtheria immunisation is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinic. School children also attend here.

Immunisation material is supplied free to medical practitioners when requested.

No. of children immunised during the year:

(i) pre-school children ... 66. Prophylactics used ... A.P.T.
(ii) school children ... 2. Prophylactics used ... A.P.T.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASES | Total cases at all ages. | Age Periods - Years. | | | | | | | | 65 and over | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------|---|
| | | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | |
| Scarlet fever | 7 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Measles (excluding rubella) | 116 | 10 | 16 | 28 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 1 | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Dysentery | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Totals | 146 | 13 | 20 | 30 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

Total deaths: Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) - 2.
Dysentery - 1.
Erysipelas - 1.

Total cases removed to hospital from the district:-

Scarlet fever - 6.
Ophthalmia neonatorum - 2.

Disinfection after infectious disease:

No. of houses disinfected during 1945 - 12. Method (state disinfectant Apparatus used for disinfecting used - Sulphur Dioxide) clothing, bedding, etc.-(Sulphur Dioxide). steam or otherwise.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

Non

Respiratory Respiratory

M. F. M. F.

Age Periods

Years.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| 0 | ... | ... |
| 1 | ... | ... |
| 5 | ... | ... |
| 10 | ... | ... |
| 15 | ... | ... |
| 20 | ... | ... |
| 25 | ... | ... |
| 35 | ... | ... |
| 45 | ... | ... |
| 55 | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | | |

Totals ...

3

1

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | 1 |
|---|---|

Deaths.

Non

Respiratory Respiratory

M. F. M. F.

Age Periods

Years.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| 0 | ... | ... |
| 1 | ... | ... |
| 5 | ... | ... |
| 10 | ... | ... |
| 15 | ... | ... |
| 20 | ... | ... |
| 25 | ... | ... |
| 35 | ... | ... |
| 45 | ... | ... |
| 55 | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | | |

Totals ...

1

1

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths: All deaths had been previously notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum: Cases notified - 2.
Treated in Hospital - 2.
Vision unimpaired - 2.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply: The supply to all parts of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is a piped supply to every house in the township. A slight surface contamination of the water in the open reservoir was treated by cleaning and swilling the banks.

The following examinations of the water were made during the year:-

| | No. | Results. |
|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Bacteriological Examination | 3 | 2 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory |
| Chemical Analyses | 2 | Satisfactory. |

Sanitary Inspections during 1945: No. of premises visited - 695.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered - 317; No. abated - 287.

No. of notices served: Informal - 121. Statutory - 10.

Legal Proceedings: No. - Nil; Result - Nil.

Eradication of bed bugs: The method used is to open up all breeding places such as floor boards, picture rails and skirtings and spraying with vermicide after which the whole premises are fumigated with "Thermatox". ~~Name~~ cases have been dealt with during the year and there has been no case of re-infestation.

Canal Boats: Number inspected - 7.

Number of infringements of Acts - 2.

Housing Conditions: The majority of the houses are built in terraces and are mostly 40 to 60 years old. The whole district is affected by mining subsidence in some degree, particularly the main structures and water and drainage services. Overcrowding shows an increase due to the return of members of H.M. Forces and in many cases their families.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Action taken with regard to Milk Supply:

Supervision has been maintained over dairies and cowsheds.

Farms: No. of dairy farms - 16.
Approx. number of cows in the district - 109.

Cowkeepers: No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) - 15.
No. of inspections during the year - 117.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) - 1.

Examinations for presence of tubercle bacilli:

Tuberculous milk - No. of samples submitted - 16.
Result: Positive - 2; Negative - 14.

Bacteriological examinations:

No. of samples - 16.
No. satisfactory - 11; No. unsatisfactory - 5.

Signed,

A. R. Entwistle
Medical Officer of Health.